(b) whether BCCL is supplying taxies and cars to State Government agencies and C. B. I. officials;

(c) whether BCCL has reserved some taxies for local Police Stations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd. (CIL), the details of taxies/private taxies hired by Bharat Coking-Coal Ltd. during 1992 and 1993 were as under ;

	1991	1992
(i) No. of taxies/private taxies hired	179	213
(ii) Amount paid as hire charges	Rs.85,58,132,	Rs. 84, 17, 780

(b) Yes, Sir. Vehicles had to be hired against surveyed off company vehicles for which no replacement was provided.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. has not reserved taxies for local police stations. However, Departmental/hired vehicles are being provided to police authorities as and when required for patrolling.

GRADATION OF THE COAL MINES IN THE DEGREE OF MECHANISATION ADOPTED IN BCCL

5258. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any gradation of the coal mines on the degree of mechanisation adopted in BCCL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, why not to reap the fruit of mechanisation naming the best mechanised and most mechanised unit;

(d) the cost of production of coal in both;

(e) whether it is also a fact that higher the mechanisation lower the out-turn per man's shift and greater the cost of production of coal; and

(f) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) There is no standard system of gradation of coal mines based on the degree of mechanisation adopted. However mines can be termed as mechanised, semi-mechanised etc.

(c) Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. has endeavoured to increase production and productivity through the mechanisation of mines and have been able to increase the coal production from a level of 26.61 million tonnes in 1989-90 to 29.03 million tonnes in 1993-94 (provisional).

(d) The average cost of production of coal in BCCL during 1992-93 was Rs. 499.06 per tonnes.

(e) and (f) Higher degree of mechanisation involves higher capital cost. Normally with a higher degree of mechanisation higher productivity is achieved which reduces the overall cost of production by offsetting the increase in interest and depreciation cost. If however, the desired level of production is not achieved after mechanisation the cost of production will go up.